

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested. Claims 9-14 are pending, Claims 1-8 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claim 9 having been amended by the way of the present amendment.

Claim 9 has been amended, consistent with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 9 describes the core portion as being of the optical fiber soot. Furthermore, Claim 9 has been drafted consistent with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for method claims. It is believed that Claim 9 as amended complies with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. However, if the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned so that mutually agreeable claim language may be identified.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is believed that the invention defined by Claims 9-14, as amended, is definite. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

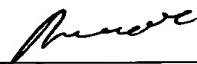
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)
BLD/rac



Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073